

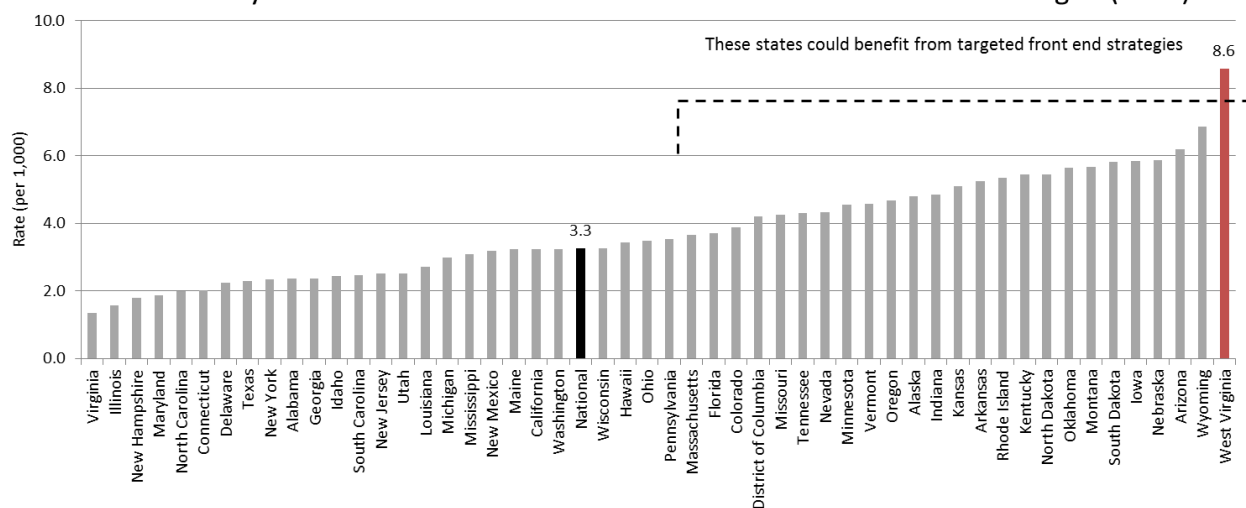
- The Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) Bureau for Children and Families (BCF) has been provided an opportunity to change how we use federal funds designed to support certain aspects of West Virginia's child welfare system.
- In October 2014, BCF was granted a federal Title IV-E Waiver by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families to conduct a child welfare demonstration project.
- West Virginia's Title IV-E Waiver demonstration project, Safe at Home West Virginia, aims to provide wrap-around behavioral health and social services to 12-17 year olds with specific identified behavioral health needs who are currently in congregate care or at risk of entering congregate care.
- The waiver allows West Virginia to demonstrate that child welfare programs can achieve better outcomes for children and families if funds are spent for enhanced wraparound community based services aimed at returning and keeping children in their communities.
- The Title IV-E Waiver allows the existing level of funding to be refocused for in-home services.
- The Department's vision for Safe at Home West Virginia is:
 - Our children and families will be safe.
 - Our children will have a strong, permanent connection with family and community.
 - Our children and families will be successful in their lives and have enhanced well-being.
 - Our children and families will be mentally and physically healthy.
 - Our children and families will be supported in their homes and home communities by receiving the correct services to meet their needs.
- By focusing on youth ages 12-17 in congregate care or at risk of entering congregate care, we believe that if targeted and comprehensive community services are provided to wrap around youth and their families, we can either reunify them or keep them out of care in the first place, and most importantly, keep youth in their communities where they have the best chances for success.

- With a goal implementing statewide by 2017, the demonstration launched October 1, 2015, in the phase one counties of Berkeley, Boone, Cabell, Jefferson, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, Morgan, Putnam and Wayne.
- Through the demonstration, providers are able to serve families with more flexible, targeted, and individualized services and also more effectively engage public and private partners to better meet the needs of youth and families.
- *Safe at Home West Virginia* is based on the “National Wraparound Initiative.”
 - It is strongly rooted in family engagement and engaging community support to provide services individually designed to meet the complex needs of children and families.
 - Elements of the service model include assessments, care coordination, planning and implementation, and transitioning families to self-sufficiency.
 - It is focused on a single coordination plan for the child and family.
- Safe at Home West Virginia provides wraparound behavioral health and social services to:
 - Support and strengthen families to keep children in their communities.
 - Return children currently in congregate care to their communities.
 - Prevent children from leaving their communities and entering congregate care.
- Services include:
 - Trauma-informed assessments for youth and their families to identify their needs.
 - Trauma-informed wraparound services.
 - Evidence-based services and supports.
 - Opportunities to provide services early and often, aligned with the targeted needs of youth and their families.
- This effort require youth-serving public and private organizations to partner, innovate, and develop a shared commitment to transform the way we serve families. Key partners include: child welfare, the courts, schools, probation, behavioral health, providers, and others.

Why entries?

- WV has the highest entry rate in the nation (8.6 children per 1,000 compared to a national entry rate of 3.3 in FY12).

Entry Rates: An indicator associated with front end reduction strategies (FY12)

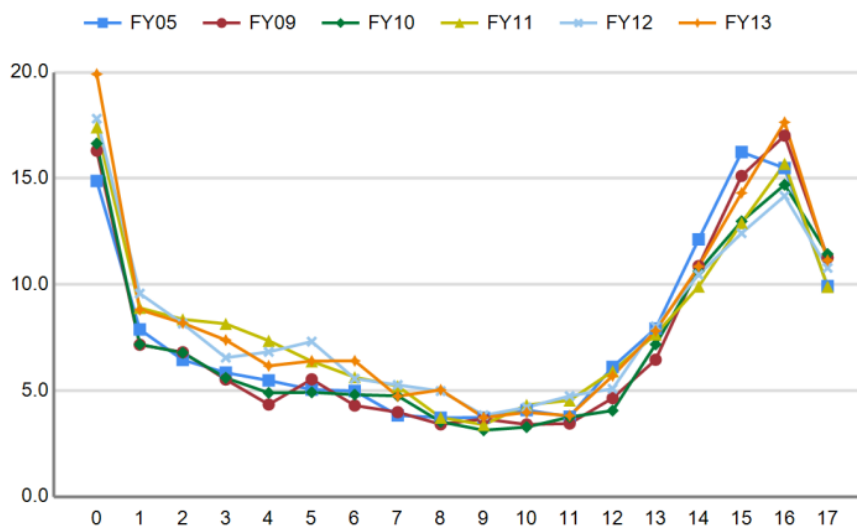


Entry rate is the number of children (ages 0-17) entering care during the year for every 1,000 in the general population.
Data source is FY12 AFCARS and Claritas population estimates for 2012

Why older youth?

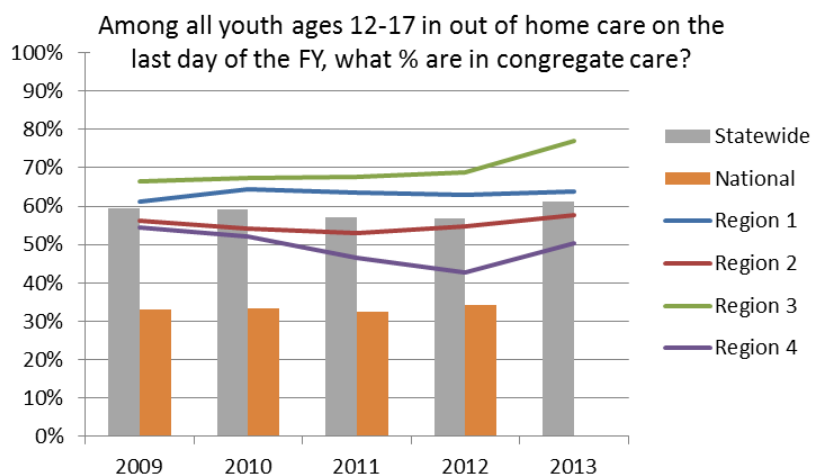
- In WV, older youth enter care at rates similar to infants. Entry rates for older teens in WV are about five times higher than the entry rates for older youth nationwide.
- About 80% of the teens entering care in FY13 in West Virginia had removal reasons of “child behavior problem” – an indicator that trauma-informed behavioral health services are needed.

Entry Rate by Age Group

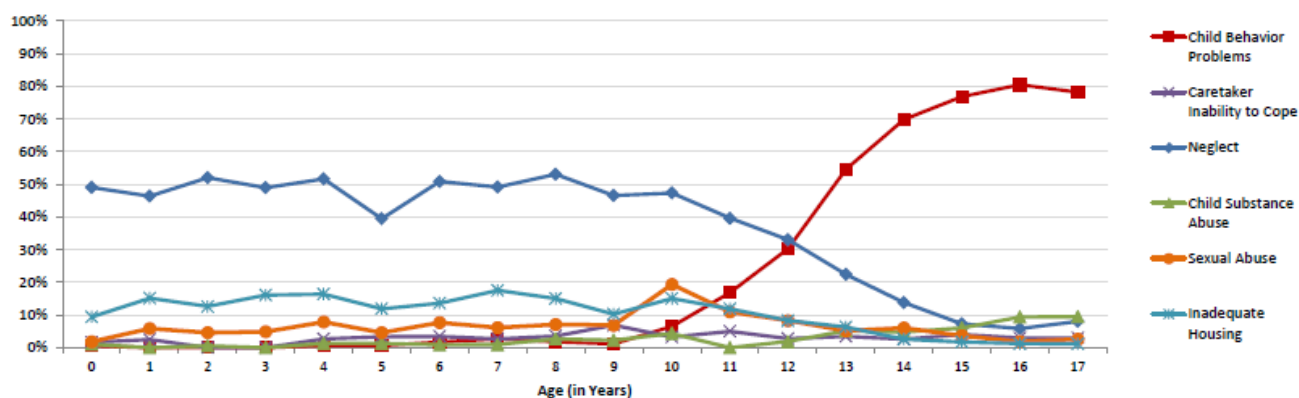


Why Congregate Care?

- Among youth ages 13-17 in care across the state, about 60% are placed in congregate care, nearly twice the national proportion.



In WV, neglect is the most common reason for removal until age 12, at this age child behavior problems become more prominent. Note: Please interpret with caution as not all removal reasons are used in all jurisdictions (or listed below); and more than one removal reason can be selected.



Why This Geographic Location?

- Phase one of Safe at Home includes the eight counties in BCF Region 2 (Mason, Putnam, Kanawha, Cabell, Lincoln, Boone, Wayne and Logan) and also Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan Counties in Region 3.
- Congregate care use is highest in Region 3, which is also the region with the largest proportion of older youth in care.
- Statewide, 61% of youth ages 12-17 in care are placed in congregate care, and 18% of those youth are placed out-of-state. In the Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan district of Region 3, 83% of the youth in care are in congregate care, and 57% of those youth are placed out-of-state.
- In Region 2, 58% of youth ages 12-17 are placed in congregate care settings, with about 10% placed out-of-state.
- In Region 2, the entry rate for older youth is roughly 13 per 1,000. (12 per 1,000 in Region 1, 10 per 1,000 in Region 3, and 15 per 1,000 in Region 4).
- Region 2 readiness

Data Source: *Information is compiled from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), which collects case-level information from state and tribal title IV-E agencies on all children in foster care and those who have been adopted with title IV-E agency involvement.*